

Message Text

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ORIGIN ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SOE-02 AF-10 ARA-14
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-12 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NASA-02 NEA-11 NSAE-00 NSC-05 SP-02 PA-02 DOE-15
CEQ-01 OES-07 SS-15 ICA-20 SIG-03 /180 R

DRAFTED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE:PC

APPROVED BY ACDA/PA:JMPOPE

-----108841 250423Z /23

P 241941Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SOFIA PRIORITY

USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

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USSALTTWO/CTB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: MAY 24 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL
INTEREST

LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR

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1. BARRY SCHWEID OF ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTED THAT ACDA
DIRECTOR WARNKE EMPHASIZED THAT U.S. SECURITY WOULD BE
ENHANCED BY NEW SALT ACCORD. "THAT'S ONLY REASON WE'RE IN
IT," WARNKE TOLD BREAKFAST MEETING WITH AP STAFFERS. "IT'S
NOT PHILANTHROPY." WARNKE SAID IF NEW SALT TREATY IS NOT
SIGNED AND RATIFIED, U.S. IS DETERMINED TO KEEP SOVIETS
FROM GAINING ANY SORT OF STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE. HE SAID

"WE'VE GOT WILL AND RESOURCES TO DO THAT. I JUST HAVE NO DOUBT THAT IF THERE IS GOING TO BE AN UNBRIDLED COMPETITION, WE CAN MATCH THEM AND WE CAN OUTMATCH THEM. THAT'S ONE OF THINGS THAT GIVES US STRONG NEGOTIATING POSITION. IF SOVIET UNION THOUGHT THAT IN ABSENCE OF SALT THEY COULD GAIN STRATEGIC SUPERIORITY, THEY WOULD HAVE NO INTEREST, BELIEVE ME, IN NEGOTIATING SALT. ONE OF PRINCIPAL INCENTIVES IS THAT THEY RECOGNIZE WE CAN KEEP UP WITH ANY COMPETITION THEY CAN MOUNT." SCHWEID SAID WARNKE POINTED OUT "IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TELL" WHETHER THERE WILL BE BREAKTHROUGH ON REMAINING SALT ISSUES DURING GROMYKO'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON THIS WEEKEND. WHILE SOME DETAILS OF PROSPECTIVE NEW SALT TREATY COULD BE LEFT FOR CARTER TO IRON OUT WITH BREZHNEV, MAIN OUTLINE OF ACCORD WOULD HAVE TO BE COMPLETED BEFORE THERE IS SUMMIT MEETING, WARNKE REPORTEDLY SAID. AND IT IS UNLIKELY CONGRESS WILL TAKE UP RATIFICATION BEFORE END OF YEAR, HE ADDED. ANTICIPATING AN INTENSE POLITICAL FIGHT, WARNKE REPORTEDLY SAID ADMINISTRATION WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH CHARGES THAT "WE'RE GIVING AWAY FARM." ACDA DIRECTOR SAID "I THINK WE CAN DEMONSTRATE CONCLUSIVELY ON MERITS OF AGREEMENT THAT WE ARE NOT MAKING ALL OF CONCESSIONS. SOVIET UNION HAS MADE VERY, VERY SUBSTANTIAL MOVES TO ACCEPT OUR POSITION. TREATY ON BASIS OF ITS OWN MERITS IS SUBSTANTIAL CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN SECURITY." SCHWEID SAID WARNKE ADDED THAT BEYOND ARGUMENTS OVER AGREEMENT'S STRATEGIC MERITS, ADMINISTRATION

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TION MUST FACE TOUGH ISSUE OF "ATMOSPHERICS"--SPILLOVER NEGATIVE ATTITUDE CAUSED BY SOVIET ADVENTURES IN AFRICA, REPRESSION OF SOVIET DISSIDENTS AND FACT THAT SOVIETS ARE NOT HELPING IN EFFORT FOR MIDEAST PEACE. "THIS IS GOING TO BE PROBLEM," WARNKE SAID, "THERE'S NO QUESTION ABOUT THAT."

2. NEW YORK NEWS QUOTED SENATOR JAKE GARN, CHAIRMAN OF AMERICAN CONSERVATIVE UNION'S DEFENSE TASK FORCE, AS SAYING HE BELIEVES THERE SHOULD BE NEW SALT TREATY BUT COULD NOT SUPPORT AGREEMENT BEING NEGOTIATED IN GENEVA. UNLESS BASIC CHANGES ARE MADE BY SENATE--REDUCING NUMBER OF SOVIET ICBM'S--RESTRICTING BACKFIRE AND "DRAMATICALLY INCREASING" PERMITTED RANGE FOR U.S. CRUISE MISSILES--GARN SAID HE WOULD LEAD FILIBUSTER IN AN EFFORT "TO KILL TREATY." HE ALSO SAID SALT NEGOTIATIONS "SHOULD BE SUSPENDED" UNTIL SOVIETS AGREED TO HALT THEIR MILITARY "ADVENTURISM" IN AFRICA."

3. NEW YORK NEWS ALSO REPORTED THAT CENTER FOR STRATEGIC AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AT GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL PUBLISH NEXT MONTH STUDY THAT

ADMINISTRATION SUPPORTERS IN CONGRESS ALLEGEDLY TRIED TO SUPPRESS. STUDY ARGUES THAT SOVIET UNION IS ACHIEVING MILITARY SUPERIORITY OVER U.S. IN STRATEGIC AND CONVENTIONAL AREAS. NEWS SAID JOHN M. COLLINS, DEFENSE SPECIALIST FOR CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE, TOLD PRESS CONFERENCE THAT U.S. "IS WELL ON ITS WAY TO BECOMING SECOND-CLASS MILITARY POWER, AND IN SOME CASES WE HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED THAT STATUS." REP. JOHN BRECKINRIDGE SAID HOUSE AND SENATE LEADERS HAD BLOCKED PUBLICATION OF COLLINS STUDY BY CONGRESS. MEANTIME, NEWS REPORTED THAT ROBERT BERMAN, DEFENSE ANALYST FOR BROOKINGS INSTITUTION, TOLD BRIEFING SPONSORED BY ARMS CONTROL ASSOCIATION THAT CONTRARY TO CHARGES BY SALT OPPONENTS, SOVIET BACKFIRE BOMBER CLEARLY IS DESIGNED FOR MEDIUM-RANGE ROLES RATHER

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THAN "DEEP STRIKES" AGAINST U.S. AND THUS SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN NEW STRATEGIC ARMS TREATY.

4. WASHINGTON STAR, IN DISPATCH FROM MEXICO CITY, QUOTED HENRY KISSINGER AS SAYING CUBA AND SOVIET UNION MUST BE HELD PARTIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR RECENT FIGHTING IN ZAIRE. KISSINGER SAID "NATION THAT PUTS LOOSE CANNON DECK CANNOT THEN SAY THAT IT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SHIP." SPEAKING AT AN INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CONFERENCE, KISSINGER SAID "ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO I GAVE SPEECH AND SAID THAT I HAD NOT UP TO NOW FAVORED LINKAGE OF SALT TALKS TO OTHER THINGS, BUT IF THERE IS ANOTHER CUBAN MOVE IN AFRICA I DO NOT SEE HOW WE CAN PROCEED."

5. NEW YORK TIMES EDITORIALY DISCUSSED WHAT IT TERMED PREMATURE STORM OVER SALT. "WE ARE DISMAYED TO FIND CRITICS HAMMERING AWAY AT PACT WHILE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS COMPELLED TO KEEP SILENT FOR DURATION OF NEGOTIATIONS-- EVEN ABOUT SOME SIGNIFICANT RECENT PROGRESS....CENTRAL QUESTION MUST NOT BE LOST: WILL TREATY TERMS SERVE SECURITY INTERESTS OF U.S. AND WORLD? CLAIMS OF CRITICS THAT ALL CONCESSIONS ARE COMING FROM AMERICAN SIDE SHOULD NOT BE GOING UNCHALLENGED. FACT IS THAT RUSSIANS HAVE ALSO MADE SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS, SOME IN RECENT WEEKS... ON BASIS OF WHAT HAS SO FAR BECOME KNOWN, THERE APPEARS LITTLE JUSTIFICATION FOR VIOLENT CRITICISM THAT HAS BEEN BUILDING UP. LET US HAVE DEBATE, NOT LYNCHING."

6. COLUMNIST JOHN P. ROCHE, WRITING IN WASHINGTON STAR ABOUT "SENATE DOUBTS AND SALT PROSPECTS," SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION HAS MADE CAREER OUT OF DOWNPLAYING ABILITY OF SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVES. "AT WHITE HOUSE THEY REALLY SEEM TO THINK PAUL WARNKE CAN TAKE HIS CHARTS AND

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FANCY OVERLAYS BEFORE SENATORS LIKE HENRY M. JACKSON OR SAM NUNN AND DAZZLE KIDDIES. IN FACT, JACKSON AND NUNN, AND THEIR STAFFS, KNOW STUFF INSIDE OUT, AND I HAVE HUNCH THEY HAVE REACHED POINT OF NO RETURN WITH SALT. OTHER SENATORS, WHETHER DEMOCRAT OR REPUBLICAN, WHO ARE UNINFORMED BUT CONCERNED, SENSIBLY TAKE THEIR LEAD FROM SUCH EXPERT COLLEAGUES." ROCHE QUOTED WASHINGTON SOURCE AS SAYING "IF WARNKE CAME BACK WITH SOVIET SURRENDER OF MOSCOW AS TRADE-OFF FOR NON-DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC CRUISE MISSILES, DEAL WOULDN'T GET 50 VOTES."

7. THERE WERE REPORTS FROM LONDON THAT SOVIET UNION BROUGHT UP MAJOR SHARE OF AVAILABLE WORLD SUPPLY OF COBALT IN RECENT MONTHS IN ANTICIPATION OF GLOBAL SHORTAGE. BERNARD NOSSITER OF WASHINGTON POST SAID ABORTIVE INVASION OF SHABA PROVINCE IN ZAIRE SHUT OFF 65 PERCENT OF WORLD'S COBALT SUPPLY FOR UP TO NINE MONTHS. SYNDICATED COLUMNISTS ROWLAND EVANS AND ROBERT NOVAK SAID THIS EVIDENCE OF MOSCOW'S COMPLICITY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S "HARDENED MOOD" WHICH COULD KILL WASHINGTON SUMMIT MEETING WITH BREZHNEV. EVANS AND NOVAK SAID "PROPOSED WASHINGTON SUMMIT MIGHT YET BE HELD. BUT INSTEAD OF PLOTTING TO BRING IT OFF AS HIGH POINT OF HIS FIRST TWO YEARS, PRESIDENT IS NOW ANALYZING REASONS FOR POSTPONING IT....GIVEN RISING ANTI-SOVIET EMOTIONS IN CONGRESS, SALT TWO WOULD HAVE TROUBLE IN SENATE, WHERE REQUIRED TWO-THIRDS VOTE DOES NOT NOW EXIST....ALTHOUGH SALT WOULD BE BY FAR MOST IMPORTANT SACRIFICE BY PRESIDENT DETERMINED TO RESTRAIN MOSCOW, U.S. POLICY TOWARD BLACK AFRICA IS ALSO IN BALANCE....TAKING HIS CUE FROM PRESIDENT, VANCE IS MOVING TOWARD TOUGHER U.S. POLICY ON AFRICA WITHIN SAME WAY THAT CARTER IS MOVING AWAY FROM ANY AUTOMATIC DECISION TO GIFT-WRAP SALT TWO AND HAND IT TO BREZHNEV IN LATE SUMMER." CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS CONFERENCES, SALT (ARMS CONTROL)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE132232
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JPMPOPE:PC
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780220-0434
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780523/aaaaasxa.tel
Line Count: 207
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: e6104597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN ACDA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2583584
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAY 24 ROUNDUP: PRESS ITEMS OF ARMS CONTROL INTEREST LONDON FOR AMB/EX, SOFIA FOR AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PARM, SOPN
To: GENEVA USSALTTWO
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e6104597-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014